

Upgradation of J.L.N. Port Trust

1895. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jawaharlal Nehru Trust has submitted proposals to the Government for berth expansion and for upgradation of other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon and present status of the proposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that levels of congestion have increased substantially at Mumbai port and details of demurrages collected for the last two years; and

(e) the projections of traffic load for the next five years for ports at Mumbai, etc. and fresh initiatives taken to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has submitted two proposals viz. construction of a Marine Chemical Terminal and construction of a Berth for handling all grades of Liquid Cargo.

(c) The proposals are under examination.

(d) No, Sir. There is no substantial increase in the congestion level at Mumbai port and demurrages are not collected by the port.

(e) The Working Group on port sector has projected a traffic of 43.45 million tonnes at Mumbai port and 24.51 million tonnes at Jawaharlal Nehru Port by 2002 AD. It is proposed to create additional capacity to handle the projected traffic during 9th Plan through plan funds and also through captive users and private sector participation.

By-Pass on N.H. 9 and 5

1896. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for laying a by-pass road linking National Highway No. 9 with National Highway No. 5, outside Vijayawada City;

(b) if so, the length of the by-pass road and the cost of the project; and

(c) when the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to resource constraints, by-passes are accorded lower priority. However, viable projects may receive consideration under Build Operate and Transfer scheme.

Ordnance Units in Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra

1897. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans for upgradation, expansion, modernisation, diversification, capacity addition of ordnance units in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of investments made on this account in defence production units in Vidarbha region project-wise during the last three years and results achieved thereunder alongwith the new proposal under execution/consideration and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up new units in Vidarbha region during Ninth Five Year Plan and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The content of Defence production is sought to be concurrently related to emerging threats and dictates of technology. This is achieved by development and production of new hardware. Upgradation, modernisation and expansion in Ordnance Factories are taken up on a systematic basis as part of renewal and replacement of old and worn out plant and machinery. Creation of new/ additional capacities is also undertaken for specific projects on as required basis. The Ordnance Factories are also making sustained efforts for diversification through utilisation of their separable capacities for production for non-defence customers.

2. There are three ordnance factories located in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, namely Ordnance Factory, Chanda (OFCh), Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari (OFAj) and Ordnance Factory, Bhandara (OFBa). A project involving investment of Rs. 15.04 crores is under execution in OFBa. A project involving an investment of Rs. 25 crores is under consideration in OFAj. Details of expenditure on upgradation/modernisation in the three factories during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :-

Expenditure on upgradation/modernisation

(in crores of rupees)

Factory	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
OFCh	0.96	0.31	1.31
OFBa	0.91	0.82	0.57
OFAj	7.11	5.88	4.17

3. Since adequate facilities exist in the country, there are no plans presently to set up any new defence production units in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra or elsewhere in the country.